

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2904

FOR RIEGER AND DR. WILDE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AFSP APER PFOR PROP LA US TH
SUBJECT: THAI TCN EMPLOYEES OF EMBASSY FEARFUL OF ATTENDING SEMINARS

REFS: A) VIENTIANE 2847, B) VIENTIANE 2857

1. OUR NINE THAI TCN EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING ONE INCARCERATED BY LPDR LAST MONTH AND WHO REMAINS IN PRISON) ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY MORE NERVOUS ABOUT ATTENDING SEMINARS REPORTED REFTELS.

2. AS INDICATED REFTEL A, WE PROVIDED MFA NAMES OF THREE THAI EMPLOYEES IN ADDITION TO 36 LAO NATIONALS AND ONE VIETNAMESE TO COMPRISE THE INITIAL GROUP OF 40 REQUESTED BY MFA. ALTHOUGH MFA HAS STILL NOT OFFICIALLY INFORMED US WHEN AND WHERE FIRST SEMINAR WILL BE HELD, TWO OF THE THREE THAI EMPLOYEES WHOSE NAMES WERE SUBMITTED CROSSED INTO THAILAND FRIDAY AND FAILED TO RETURN TO WORK YESTERDAY OR TODAY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY WILL PROBABLY NOT RETURN HERE.

3. IN ADDITION TO THOSE TWO, OUR MOST SENIOR TCN EMPLOYEE, MANOO YAMBANE, DID NOT RETURN FROM NONG KHAI YESTERDAY ALTHOUGH HE MAY COME BACK LATER TODAY. HE HAS TOLD EMBOFFS PREVIOUSLY THAT HE WILL REFUSE TO ATTEND SEMINARS, ALTHOUGH HE IS FEARFUL OF CONSEQUENCES.

4. THE JAILING OF SOME OF OUR THAI EMPLOYEES; THE INABILITY
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 02904 150953Z

OF EITHER THIS EMBASSY OR THE THAI EMBASSY TO DO MUCH IN SUCH

CASES OTHER THAN LODGE COMPLAINTS OR MAKE INQUIRIES OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT; THE HARASSMENT TO WHICH MANY OF OUR EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING THAIS, ARE SUBJECT; THE ENFORCED SERVICE THAT OUR EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING THAI AND VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES, MUST PERFORM AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL (ALL-NIGHT GUARD DUTY, HELPING ON COMMUNAL GARDENS, ETC.) ARE CAUSING OUR FEW THAI EMPLOYEES TO CONSIDER LEAVING VIENTIANE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. BOTH OUR EMBASSY NURSE AND OUR SENIOR MEDICAL TECHNICIAN INDICATED YESTERDAY TO ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR THAT THEY PLAN TO LEAVE. IN CASE OF EMBASSY NURSE, WE HOPE SHE WILL REMAIN AT LEAST SOMEWHAT LONGER, BUT WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO MAKE HER CHANGE HER MIND. WE HAVE RECENTLY SUBMITTED NOTE TO MFA REQUESTING EXTENSION OF HER RESIDENCE PERMIT. FACT THAT SHE WAS SPECIFICALLY EMPLOYED IN BANGKOK IN 1959 TO SERVE AS EMBASSY NURSE IN VIENTIANE AND HAS WORKED HERE SINCE THAT TIME, AS WELL AS OCCUPYING HOUSE LEASED FOR HER OFFICIALLY BY THE EMBASSY, MAY PLACE HER IN CATEGORY DIFFERENT THAN MOST OF OUR EMPLOYEES. WE HAVE EXPLAINED THIS TO HER, BUT SHE IS STILL MIGHTY NERVOUS.

6. OUR SR. MEDICAL TECHNICIAN TCN-3/4 CHAMNONG THONGKHAM HAS SERVED IN THE EMBASSY'S MEDICAL LABORATORY SINCE 1964. HE ALSO HAD SERVICE AS LABORATORY TECHNICIAN WITH THE U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT (WALTER REED) IN BANGKOK FROM 1962 TO 1963. CHAMNONG'S FILE INDICATES HE IS AN EXPERIENCED TECHNICIAN WHO HAS PERFORMED HIS DUTIES HERE EXCEEDINGLY WELL. HE HAS INFORMED US THAT HE DEFINITELY PLANS TO LEAVE VIENTIANE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE WEEKS. HIS CHILDREN ARE ATTENDING SCHOOL NEAR UDORN WHILE HIS WIFE RESIDES WITH HIM HERE. THEY BOTH HAVE THAI PASSPORTS.

7. CHAMNONG WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE HIS EMPLOYMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BUT CONSIDERS THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO REMAIN HERE. HE HAS ASKED WHETHER A VACANCY MIGHT EXIST ELSEWHERE, PREFERABLY IN BANGKOK, AT ANOTHER FOREIGN SERVICE OR U.S. ESTABLISHMENT WHERE HIS SPECIAL TALENTS AND EXPERTISE COULD BE PUT TO USE. THIS EMBASSY IS NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 02904 150953Z

FOR ONWARD EMPLOYMENT TO HIM OR ANY OTHER THAI WHO MAY BE FORCED BY CIRCUMSTANCES TO LEAVE. BUT WE SHOULD HOPE THAT EVERY EFFORT CAN BE MADE TO LOCATE SOMETHING FOR ONE OR TWO OF OUR THAIS WHOSE LONGTIME AND FAITHFUL SERVICE UNDER OFTEN DIFFICULT CONDITIONS REQUIRES US TO GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THEIR NEEDS. IN THIS VEIN, WE SEEK BANGKOK'S ASSISTANCE IN POSSIBLE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHAMNONG. WE DO NOT EXPECT THAT WE

SHALL HAVE TO CALL UPON YOU FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE FOR
ANY OF THE OTHER THAI EMPLOYEES, UNLESS IT MIGHT BOTHER
THE EMBASSY NURSE. HER SITUATION HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY
DISCUSSED WITH DR. WILDE.

8. YOUR EARLY COMMENTS WILL BE APPRECIATED.
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